

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, District of Columbia 20500-0003

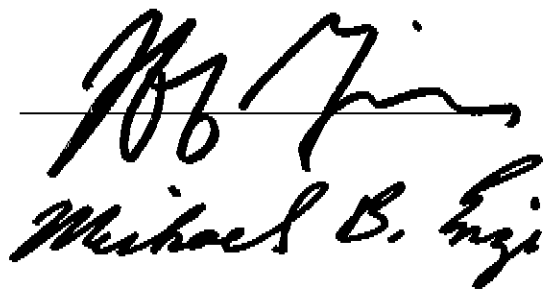
Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you to express our support for the Abandoned Mine Land program funding for certified program states and tribes. This program provides much-needed support for abandoned mine clean-up throughout the country. In the Fiscal Year 2010 President's Budget, you proposed to eliminate this program for certified states and tribes. We urge you not to repeat this proposal in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

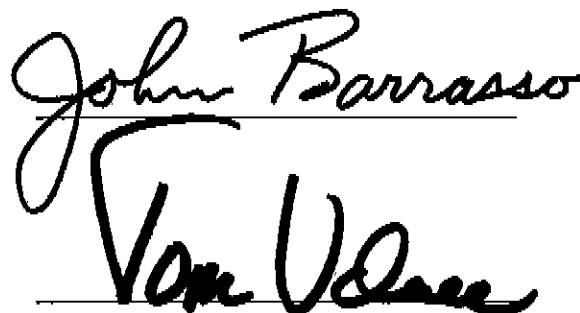
Abandoned mines contribute acid mine drainage, metals and sediments to surrounding waterbodies in unacceptable concentrations, creating health risks and environmental impacts. The AML program provides critical funding to support mine clean-up and create jobs across the nation. Over the last two decades, a small number of states and tribes have become "certified" under the AML Program, meaning that they have completed clean-ups on all of the high priority abandoned coal mines within their borders. However, this does not mean that all abandoned coal mines or that all abandoned hard rock mines have been cleaned up on those state or tribal lands. These projects must continue to go forward to avoid unnecessary exposure of people and the environment to the contamination that bleeds from these sites if left unattended.

We urge you to include full funding of the AML program for certified and non-certified states and tribes in the FY 2011 President's Budget to ensure that the environmental and economic benefits of this program can continue to be realized throughout the country.


Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi



John Barrasso



Van Vleet